

Rockford Ills

Aug 13'02

My dear Mr Watson

Errata est humanum  
in naming Willows from leaves  
only - her here goes

371. *S. rostrata*, Rich

372 *S. flavescens*, Nutt

373 *S. cordata* Muhl forma

So much I feel sure of and I  
should have scarcely less hesitatingly  
in referring 367 to *S. flavescens*  
also. As it is only the earlier  
leaves of this species that are  
in most cases obovate - and as  
it is almost always there  
alone that are collected. The  
later - narrower - more conspicuously  
serrate forms are less readily  
recognized as belonging to the  
same species -

If driven to a guess at  
370 I should say *S. rostrata*

but the leaves are unusually short petioled for that species - still I do not know what else it possibly can be.

Can small packages of botanical specimens <sup>of no commercial value</sup> be sent to Europe by post? If so at what rate and under what conditions? I should like very much to know and your knowledge of the matter is likely to exceed that of the P.M. of our island town.

Yours very truly  
M. S. Lebb



P. S. would say in explanation - of this  
condition that a large number - of the forms  
of alba found among the streams are  
hybrids with lucida - hence this property  
of emitting metallic scales pure alba  
MSB -

P.S. No 2, of J. purpurea (section  
heading) you have inserted "small  
tree" - evidently, to make this  
section correspond with the  
others - but purpurea can  
scarcely be called a "tree" and  
as a shrub is so exceedingly  
variable from low and diffuse  
to upright - that I dodged the  
whole question <sup>in</sup> the word too many  
words - I became ~~the~~ specimen  
is of such pronounced character  
in every way that it seemed  
superfluous to speak of its  
height - Bentham would  
perhaps call it a "twiggy shrub"